(c) the States where effective centres/research facilities are provided to save environment and forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closing of crusher companies

†2022. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain plots of Paini Kumari at the Kerseong block in the district of Darjeeling in West Bengal have been given illegally on lease to some companies;

(b) whether the companies are engaged in the work of stone chips and crushing causing a great harm to the environment;

(c) whether the health of hundres of students of a Government primary school located nearby is affected because of the dust of the crusher;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to close the said crusher as early as possible taking into notice of the health of poor public and the children and the surrounding environment; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No diversion of forest has been allowed by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for stone-crushing unit in Kerseong Block in Darjeeling District in West Bengal.

(b) According to the report received from West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB), stone crushing is a polluting industry. However, the company under the name and style of M/s Progressive Construction Limited at Paina Kumari Jote, Simulbari, PO-Siliguri, in Darjeeling District had obtained NOC of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board on 12.07.2000. The NOC was issued by the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Darjeeling, for manufacturing stone crushed aggregate (360 T/day).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The industry was directed to install adequate air pollution control system for the control of dust as well as noise. But, during inspection by the Board official, it was noticed that except the water shower near the crushing machine, no foolproof air pollution control system had been installed, as stipulated in the NOC certificate.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) For non-compliance of statutory environmental norms, WBPCB issued closure and disconnection of electricity order on 02.09.2002. But, from recent inspection it was found that the said stone-crushing unit is still in operation with the help of generator. The matter has been brought to the notice of appropriate legal authority.

Carbon trade

2023. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to enforcement of Kyoto Protocol, the carbon trade is becoming one of the hottest commodities in the international market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are two systems in the carbon trade *i.e.* allowing emission credits to be traded between two countries (joint implementation) and allowing companies to earn credits by paying for emission, reducing and clean energy projects (clean development mechanism) in developing countries.

(c) if so, whether it is detrimental or beneficial to India; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are taking to prevent this carbon trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) With the coming into force of Kyoto Protocol February; 2005, Carbon Trade in some Annex-I countries has substantially picked up.

(b) The Kyoto Protocol provides for three mechanisms that enable the developed countries with quantified emission limitation and reduction committments to acquire greenhouse gas reduction credits from activities